

July 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

A new Georgia State Board of Education Rule (160-5-1-.15 AWARDING UNITS OF CREDIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES), adopted by the Board in April 2013, provides the opportunity for students to “test-out” of any course for which there is an associated EOCT and earn credit for the course through that process. The purpose of this letter is to describe student eligibility, test administration guidelines, costs, and availability under the provisions of this new rule beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

Under the provisions of the amended rule and guidelines published by the Georgia Department of Education’s (GaDOE) Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, local boards of education shall award course credit to students who reach the performance level of Exceeds (indicated by a score of 90 or above) on an EOCT taken prior to taking the course. For example, a student may attempt the Biology EOCT prior to taking the course. If the student reaches the performance level of Exceeds, the local board of education shall award the student the Biology course credit. A student may test-out of any course that has an associated state-mandated EOCT. As stated in the Rule, students may earn no more than three units of credit by demonstrating subject area competency in this fashion.

### **Student Eligibility:**

Students must meet the following requirements to exercise this option:

1. Not currently or previously enrolled in the course;
2. Have earned a grade of B or better in the most recent course that is the same content area of the course for which the student is attempting the EOCT;
3. Received a teacher recommendation from the teacher of the most recent course in the same content area (or, if not available, a teacher in the same content area with knowledge of the student’s academic achievement) for which the student is attempting the EOCT; and
4. Received parent/guardian permission if the student is less than 18 years of age.
5. Students and parents must participate in an advisement session prior to testing.

Students who do not meet the eligibility criteria above will not be allowed to take advantage of the test-out opportunity.

### **Test Administration Guidelines**

When allowing students to attempt to earn course credit through testing out, Elbert County Comprehensive High school shall:

1. Allow eligible students **only one opportunity per course** to demonstrate subject area competency.
2. Provide the EOCT test-out opportunity only during the GaDOE designated administration windows for this purpose and all administrations must be conducted online.
3. **Require students who do not reach the performance level of Exceeds when attempting to test-out to enroll in and complete the associated course when applicable. The student would again take the EOCT at the conclusion of that course experience regardless of their score during their attempt to test-out. EOCT scores cannot be banked.**

(more information on reverse side)

4. Students may not opt to test-out if currently enrolled, or who have previously been enrolled, in a higher-level course to attempt to earn credit by testing out. For example, a student taking AP Physics may not earn credit for Physical Science through this process.
5. The administration of all EOCTs for this purpose must adhere to the system's local EOCT testing calendar.
6. Students who opted to test-out and have achieved the Exceeds performance level (as indicated by a score of 90 or above) will be required to move to the next level course. **The test score earned will be stored as the official grade for that course.**
7. Please note: Credits earned through the test-out process are not recognized by the NCAA.

### **Costs**

Students who opt to test-out of an EOCT will be charged an advanced fee of \$50.00 (cash or money order) per course. No student will be tested who has not paid this fee. If the student scores at the exceeds level, the cost of the course will be reimbursed to the parent/guardian/student.

### **Availability**

The opportunity for students to test-out may be offered by Elbert County during specified EOCT Mid-Month windows. The first EOCT window during which this option becomes available will be the September 2013 Mid-Month Administration. Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, the opportunity for students to test-out will be offered in the specific Mid-Month Administration windows of September and March. Beginning in summer 2014, the Summer Administration window may also be utilized for this purpose.

This option is not available during the Winter or Spring Main Administrations and only in the specific Mid-Month windows above.

For more information about the test-out process, please contact Mrs. Michelle Dye, Curriculum Director at 706-213-4113 or Mrs. Stacey Almond, Guidance Counselor at 706-213-4121.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Renee Padgett  
ECCHS Principal

cc: System Superintendents

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent

Dr. Mike Buck, Chief Academic Officer

Martha Reichrath, Ph.D, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Anthony Eitel, Director for Assessment Administration